

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2000
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2529

Introduced by Assembly Member Shelley

February 24, 2000

An act to add Chapter 3.2 (commencing with Section 10020) to Part 1 of Division 3 of the Unemployment Insurance Code, relating to employment services, *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2529, as amended, Shelley. Career advancement services.

Existing law establishes various employment and training programs, including welfare-to-work programs for CalWORKs recipients.

This bill would enact provisions to implement a two-year pilot program to allocate funds to entities in Los Angeles County and the City and County of San Francisco for a career advancement program for disadvantaged individuals.

The bill would require the Employment Development Department to submit an evaluation of this program to the Legislature by December 31, 2003.

The bill would appropriate \$500,000 from the General Fund, to the department for implementation of this program.

Vote: ~~majority~~ ^{2/3}. Appropriation: ~~no~~ yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of
2 the following:

3 (a) Over the past two years, cutting edge vocational
4 services agencies in both Los Angeles and San Francisco
5 have found that welfare-to-work, refugee, and immigrant
6 clients placed into low skill, entry level jobs (for example,
7 back office, food service, and security guard) often fail to
8 progress to higher paying, higher skill jobs that lead to
9 self-sufficiency.

10 (b) Some clients obtain low skill jobs that offer fewer
11 than 40 work hours per week resulting in
12 underemployment and poverty. In addition, many lose
13 their jobs and return to complete welfare dependence
14 due to poor job performance.

15 (c) The reasons for a client's lack of career
16 advancement, return to welfare, or underemployment
17 include the following:

18 (1) Limited computer skills (all clients).

19 (2) Low math and reading skills (American-born
20 individuals).

21 (3) Low conversational English skills (refugees and
22 immigrants).

23 (4) Virtually nonexistent employer sponsored
24 opportunities for skills upgrade for low wage employees.

25 (5) Lack of resources to improve computer skills on
26 their own.

27 (6) Limited customer service skills.

28 (7) Limited knowledge of proper work ethics.

29 SEC. 2. Chapter 3.2 (commencing with Section
30 10020) is added to Part 1 of Division 3 of the
31 Unemployment Insurance Code, to read:
32

CHAPTER 3.2. CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

10020. The Employment Development Department shall establish a two-year pilot program to allocate funds to entities in Los Angeles County and the City and County of San Francisco for a career advancement program to serve populations who are not eligible for CalWORKs.

10021. The goals of this program are all of the following:

(a) Provide at least 200 disadvantaged individuals with career advancement services in both Los Angeles County and the City and County of San Francisco.

(b) Improve the job status of 80 percent of the individuals who receive career advancement services, as measured by reported wage increases, promotions, increases in hours worked weekly, or increases in benefits.

(c) Improve the literacy levels of 80 percent of the individuals who take advantage of adult literacy services, as measured by pretests and posttests.

(d) Improve the English language levels of 90 percent of the limited English speakers who take advantage of language training, as measured by pretests and posttests.

(e) Improve the computer literacy of 90 percent of all clients who participate in computer skills training provided through the program, as measured by pretests and posttests.

(f) Reduce by 75 percent the time it takes for clients and counselors to search job listings.

10022. The program shall provide comprehensive career advancement services to at least 200 disadvantaged individuals within the two communities. The career advancement services shall include all of the following:

(a) Computer training.

(b) Computerized adult literacy training.

(c) Advanced English language training using specialized computer software, as well as “soft” skills

1 training, including work ethic and customer service
2 workshops.

3 10023. (a) The department shall conduct an
4 evaluation of the pilot program provided for in this
5 chapter and of the outcomes achieved. The evaluation
6 shall report on the characteristics of the pilot program's
7 participants, including their age, sex, and ethnicity.

8 (b) The evaluation shall document the procedures to
9 select clients, the nature, cost, and duration of services
10 received during participation in the pilot program, and
11 the extent and nature of other services used by the clients
12 before, during, and after participation in the program.

13 (c) The department shall submit the evaluation to the
14 Legislature no later than December 31, 2003.

15 ~~10024. This chapter shall be implemented only to the~~
16 ~~extent funds for this purpose are appropriated in the~~
17 ~~annual Budget Act.~~

18 *SEC. 3. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars*
19 *(\$500,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund*
20 *to the Employment Development Department for*
21 *startup costs and implementation of the career*
22 *advancement program.*

